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SENATE BILL 5053

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Senators Dinsel, Darneille, Mullet, and Palumbo

Read first time 01/11/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to adjusting the maximum speed limit for certain  
2 segments of Interstate 90; and amending RCW 46.61.400 and 46.61.405.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.400 and 1965 ex.s. c 155 s 54 are each amended  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed  
7 greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and  
8 having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. In  
9 every event speed shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid  
10 colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering  
11 the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all  
12 persons to use due care.

13            (2) Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed  
14 for compliance with subsection (1) of this section, the limits  
15 specified in this section or established as hereinafter authorized  
16 shall be maximum lawful speeds, and no person shall drive a vehicle  
17 on a highway at a speed in excess of such maximum limits.

18            (a) Twenty-five miles per hour on city and town streets;

19            (b) Fifty miles per hour on county roads;

20            (c) Sixty miles per hour on state highways, except for Interstate  
21 90, which must have a maximum limit of seventy-five miles per hour on

1 the portions of the interstate from Ellensburg to mile post 120 and  
2 from mile post 150 near George to mile post 255 at the Spokane county  
3 border.

4 The maximum speed limits set forth in this section may be altered  
5 as authorized in RCW 46.61.405(1), 46.61.410, and 46.61.415.

6 (3) The driver of every vehicle shall, consistent with the  
7 requirements of subsection (1) of this section, drive at an  
8 appropriate reduced speed when approaching and crossing an  
9 intersection or railway grade crossing, when approaching and going  
10 around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon  
11 any narrow or winding roadway, and when special hazard exists with  
12 respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or  
13 highway conditions.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.405 and 1987 c 397 s 3 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) Whenever the secretary of transportation shall determine upon  
17 the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any  
18 maximum speed hereinbefore set forth is greater than is reasonable or  
19 safe with respect to a state highway under the conditions found to  
20 exist at any intersection or upon any other part of the state highway  
21 system or at state ferry terminals, or that a general reduction of  
22 any maximum speed set forth in RCW 46.61.400 is necessary in order to  
23 comply with a national maximum speed limit, the secretary may  
24 determine and declare a reasonable and safe lower maximum limit or a  
25 lower maximum limit which will comply with a national maximum speed  
26 limit, for any state highway, the entire state highway system, or any  
27 portion thereof, which shall be effective when appropriate signs  
28 giving notice thereof are erected. The secretary may also fix and  
29 regulate the speed of vehicles on any state highway within the  
30 maximum speed limit allowed by this chapter for special occasions  
31 including, but not limited to, local parades and other special  
32 events. Any such maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective  
33 at all times or at such times as are indicated upon the said signs;  
34 and differing limits may be established for different times of day,  
35 different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other  
36 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective (a)  
37 (~~(1)~~) when posted upon appropriate fixed or variable signs or (b)  
38 (~~(2)~~) if a maximum limit is established for auto stages which is  
39 lower than the limit for automobiles, the auto stage speed limit

1 shall become effective thirty days after written notice thereof is  
2 mailed in the manner provided in (~~subsection (4) of~~) RCW  
3 46.61.410(4), as now or hereafter amended.

4 (2) This section does not apply to the seventy-five mile per hour  
5 speed limit for specific segments of Interstate 90 as provided in RCW  
6 46.61.400(2)(c).

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